

Devin Kennedy
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Academic Positions

- 2020- **University of Wisconsin-Madison**
Herbert and Evelyn Howe Bascom Professor in Integrated Liberal Studies
Assistant Professor of History
Faculty, Program in History of Science, Medicine, and Technology
Member, Robert F. and Jean E. Holtz Center for Science & Technology Studies
- 2019-20 **New-York Historical Society**
Helen and Robert Appel Fellow in History and Technology

Education

- 2019 **Harvard University**, Cambridge MA
PhD *History of Science*
Secondary Field in *Science, Technology, & Society*
- 2011 **Princeton University**, Princeton NJ
AB (summa) *Comparative Literature*

Publications

Book

- July 2026 *Coding Capitalism: Computers and the Remaking of the Postwar US Economy*
Columbia University Press (Studies in the History of US Capitalism)

Journal Articles

- 2025 "Silent Partners: Indirect Investment and Financialization in the United States, 1950-1975." *Journal of American History* 111, No. 4 (March 2025): 712-734.
- 2020 *Introduction to Computing Capitalisms* [Special Series, Issue 1 of series] *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* 42, no. 3 (July-September 2020): 5-10. (First author with Gerardo Con Diaz)
- 2017 "The Machine in the Market: Computers and the Infrastructure of Price at the New York Stock Exchange, 1965–1975." *Social Studies of Science* 47, no. 6 (December 1, 2017): 888–917.

Edited Journal Issues

- 2021 Co-Editor, *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* Special Issue: 'Computing Capitalisms: Business, History and Information Technology II.' April-July 2021.

2020 Co-Editor, *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* Special Issue: 'Computing Capitalisms: Business, History and Information Technology [I].' July-September 2020

General Audience

2018 "The People's Utility." *Logic Magazine*. Issue 5.

Book Reviews

Forthcoming Pasquinelli, Mateo, *The Eye of the Master: A Social History of Artificial Intelligence*, Verso 2023. Isis, TK.

2022 Schlombs, Corinna, *Productivity Machines: German Appropriations of American Technology from Mass Production to Computer Automation*. MIT Press, 2019. *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* October-December 2022.

2022 Fiss, Andrew, *Performing Math: A History of Communication and Anxiety in the American Mathematics Classroom*. *Isis* 113, no. 4 (2022): 882–83.

2019 Campbell-Kelly, Martin and Daniel Garcia-Swartz, *From Mainframes to Smartphones: A History of the International Computer Industry*. Harvard University Press, 2015. *Enterprise & Society*, 20, no. 2 (June 2019): 519-21.

2017 Misa, Thomas and Jeffrey Yost. *FastLane: Managing Science in the Internet Age*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2016. *British Journal for the History of Science*. 50, no. 3 (September 2017): 563-5.

Works in Progress

[Exp. 2027] "Nonstop: Computer Infrastructure and Circuit Breakers at the Dawn of 24/7 Finance" *Journal of Policy History* Special Issue "The Political Economy of the Networked World" [invited] [draft available]

n.d. "Computer Professionals and Societal Vulnerability to Technology," (*Target Journal: Technology and Culture*) [draft available]

n.d. "The Nature of the Problem: Taxonomy in Theoretical Computer Science" (*Target Journal: Isis*)

n.d. *Are Computational Complexity Classes Natural Kinds?*

Awards and Grants

2026 Inaugural Faculty Fellow, Center for the Humanistic Study of Artificial Intelligence and Uncertainty, UW-Madison

2025 [Steering Committee Member] National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities AI Research Center, [\$719,000]

2025-26 [Lead] Borghesi-Mellon Seminar on "AI and Responsibility" UW-Madison [\$5000]

2025 [Team Member] National Endowment for the Humanities Connection Grant for Development of AI and Data Ethics Certificate [\$150,000]

- 2024-26 Herbert and Evelyn Howe Bascom Professorship in Integrated Liberal Studies, UW-Madison
- 2024 Honored Instructor, University Housing Residential Life Program, UW-Madison
- 2024 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend [\$6000]
- 2024 Association for Computing Machinery, History Committee Fellowship [\$2500]
- 2024 [Co-Lead] “Humanities Responds to Global Challenges” Seed Program, with Annette Zimmerman. “AI and Uncertainty,” College of Letters & Sciences UW-Madison
- 2023 Holtz Center for Science and Technology Studies, UW-Madison, Travel Award [\$1000]
- 2023 Center for the Humanities, UW-Madison, First Book Workshop
- 2022-23 Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation Fall Research Competition [\$24,277]
- 2019 Helen and Robert Appel Fellowship in History and Technology, New-York Historical Society
- 2018 American Historical Association Council Annual Meeting Travel Grant
- 2017-18 IEEE Life Member’s Fellowship in the History of Electrical and Computing Technology
- 2017-18 John E. Rovensky Fellowship in U.S. Business or Economic History, Business History Conference
- 2017 Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching
- 2016-17 Harvard University Graduate Society Term-Time Merit Fellowship
- 2015 David P. Wheatland Curatorial Fellowship, Collection of Historic Scientific Instruments, Harvard University
- 2015 Michael S. Mahoney Travel Award, Society for the History of Technology, Special Interest Group on Computers, Information and Society (SIGCIS)
- 2011 Princeton University Center for Human Values Senior Thesis Prize

Presentations and Conference Participation

Invited Presentations and Panels

- 2026 “Where is AI Research?” *AI Meets Society Symposium*, University of Wisconsin-Madison, February 21.
- 2025 “24/7: The Creation of an Always-On Financial World” *Political History of the Networked World*, Johns Hopkins University, October 23-25.
- 2025 [Panelist] “The Power of Creativity-Supercharging the Arts & Humanities at UW-Madison,” College of Letters & Sciences, UW-Madison, April 11.
- 2025 [Panelist] “Artificial Intelligence, Labor, and Society” Albert LePage Center for History in the Public Interest, Panel, Villanova University, March 26.
- 2021 “The heuristic of capital: Computer Reasoning and Fiduciary Trust on Wall Street 1960-1972” *Mellon Sawyer Seminar*, ‘Histories of Artificial Intelligence: A Genealogy of Power’ Online. May 26.

2021 "Rewiring Wall Street: Computers, Workers, Institutions and the Making of Electronic Markets" *Holtz Center for Science Technology & Society, Lunch Seminar* Madison, WI. September 16.

Conference Sessions Convened

2025 "Geographies of Information Technology from Telegraphs to Computer Networks" *Business History Conference*, Atlanta, GA.

2025 "Technology as Politics by Other Means in the 1980s US" *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*, New York, NY.

2023 "Risky Business: Technologies Measuring, Mitigating, and Marketing Risk" with Gili Vidan (Cornell) *Society for the History of Technology (SHoT) Annual Meeting*, Long Beach, CA.

2021 "Computers and Assetization: Organizational and Historical Approaches" with Devika Narayan (Notre Dame) *Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting*, Toronto.

2019 "Silicon Leviathan: Governing Visions for America in the 'Age of the Computer'" *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*, Chicago IL.

2016 "The Values of Time in the Sciences of Money" *History of Science Society Annual Meeting*, Atlanta, GA.

Other talks and Conference Presentations

2025 "The Nature of the Problem: Computational Complexity from Factories to Theoretical Computer Science 1954-1976" *History of Science Society Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA, November.

2025 "Wired for Profit: Computing and the Decentralized Firm, 1955-1970" *Business History Conference*. Atlanta, March 14.

2025 "The Boundary of Responsibility" Computer Scientists and Societal Vulnerability to Technology," *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*. New York, January 3.

2023 "NonStop: Catastrophe and the Always-on Economy, 1976-1993," *Society for the History of Technology Annual Meeting*. Los Angeles, October 27.

2023 "Labor Surveillance and Database Management: Industrial Origins of the Computer Database," *Data (re)Makes the World Conference*, Yale University Law School Information Society Project. New Haven, April 1.

2022 *Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, Medicine*, Discussion of Digital Transformations: Survive and Thrive in an Era of Mass Extinction by Tom Siebel. January.

2021 "Capital as the Matter of Computing: Industrial operations and computer research in the United States, 1947-67," *Society for the Social Studies of Science*. Toronto, Canada. October 8.

2020 "Silent Partners: The Institutionalization of Wealth and the Making of Financialization" *Financial History Network*. Online, December 18.

- 2020 "Silent Partners: The Institutionalization of Wealth and the Making of Financialization" *Critical Political Economy Workshop* UW-Madison. October 28.
- 2020 "Wall Street and the Public Interest." in conversation with Julia Ott. New-York Historical Society. New York, NY, February 25.
- 2019 "Manufacturing Networks: The Industrial Politics of American Computer Science." Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- 2019 "Financial Heuristics: Investment as a Subject of Artificial Intelligence Research." Conference, 'Toward a History of AI.' Columbia University, New York, NY.
- 2019 "Networked Markets and Mainframe Politics: The Governance of Early Electronic Financial Markets, 1965-1975." American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2018 "'Every Machine has a Status, Every Worker has a Condition' Factory Simulations and Industrial Computing, 1955-1968." Society for the History of Technology, Special Interest Group Computers, Information and Society. St. Louis, MO.
- 2018 "Virtual Capital: The Economic Imaginaries of Time-Shared Computing: 1960-1970" Business History Conference. Baltimore, MD.
- 2018 "The Machine and the Market: US Financial Governance in the Age of the Computer, 1960-1975" Harvard STS Circle.
- 2017 "The History of Computing and the History of Capitalism." Panel on the History of Computing. Modern Sciences Working Group, Harvard University. Cambridge, MA.
- 2017 "The Machine in the Market: Computers and Market Reform on Wall Street 1963-1969," Society for the History of Technology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2017 "Making Mechanical Markets: Regulation and Computing on Wall Street, 1963-1975" Society for the Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
- 2016 "The Speed of Capital: Finance in the Time of Computers, 1950-1972," History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- 2015 "What's 'Real' about 'Real-Time'? Time and Responsiveness in Early Post-War Computing," Society for the History of Technology, Special Interest Group Computers, Information and Society. Albuquerque, NM.
- 2014 "Picturing a Discipline: Portraiture and the History of Science 1913-1933," Early Sciences Working Group, Harvard University.

Professional Service

- 2025-27 Advisory Editor, *Isis: A Journal of the History of Science Society*
- 2025 Reviewer, *American Council of Learned Societies* Dissertation Innovation
- 2023 Reviewer/Panelist in History of Science & Science and Technology Studies, *National Endowment for the Humanities*
- n.d.* Referee: *Isis, Journal of Cultural Economy, British Journal for the History of Science. IEEE Annals of the History of Computing, Information Communication & Society*

University and Department Service

University of Wisconsin-Madison

- 2026- University Information Technology Committee
- 2025-26 Graduate Council, Department of History
- 2025- Faculty Advisory Committee, AIMES [AI Meets Society] Conference
- 2024-25 Chair, Library Research Resources Committee for Arts, Sciences and Humanities (LRC-ASH)
- 2021-25 LRC-ASH, formerly the Memorial Library Committee
- 2022-23, 24-25 University Faculty Senator, District 60
- 2023-26 History of Science, Medicine & Technology Graduate Admissions Committee
- 2024 Search Committee, History of Life Sciences
- 2022 UW-Madison Summer Research Opportunity Program Mentor
- 2021-22, 23-24 Undergraduate Council, Department of History
- 2021-22 Co-Organizer, History of Science, Medicine & Technology Colloquium and Brown Bag Series

Harvard University (as a graduate student)

- 2016 Co-Organizer, *Harvard-MIT-Princeton Conference on History of Physical Sciences* ("Phunday"), Cambridge, MA.
- 2016 Co-Organizer, Modern Sciences Working Group, Harvard Department of the History of Science.
- 2015 Co-Organizer, Early Sciences Working Group, Harvard Department of the History of Science.
- 2014 Organizer, Harvard Department of the History of Science Graduate Student Orientation.

Teaching Experience

Courses Taught

University of Wisconsin-Madison

- 2024, 25 History of Science 720: Proseminar on Methods and Historiography
- 2023 History of Science 907: Graduate Seminar on History of Technology
Technology, Power and Democracy in the United States"
- 2021, 22, 24 History of Science / Integrated Liberal Studies 202:
The Making of Modern Science /
Western Culture II: Philosophy, Science & Technology
- 2020-22, 24 History of Science 150: The Digital Age
- 2021 History of Science 555: Undergraduate Seminar ('Digital Capitalism')

History of Science 350: Science and Technology in the Global Cold War

2020 History 201: The Historian's Craft ('The History of Data and Data Science')

Harvard University (as graduate student)

2017 Ghosts in the Machine: Computers and Film, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
January @ GSAS Program

2017 Head Teaching Fellow, The Einstein Revolution (Professor Peter Galison), Program in
General Education

2016 Teaching Fellow, Open Minds, Wired Worlds: Computers and Cyberculture (Professor
Matthew Hersch), Department of the History of Science

2015 Teaching Fellow, Knowing the World: An Introduction to the History of Science
(Professor Alex Csiszar), Department of the History of Science

Advising

Advisees

2025- Yuji Xu, TBA on Computing in Hong Kong, History, UW-Madison

2024- Lucy Quanxin Yang, [co-chair] "Decentralization Before Blockchain," Political Theory,
UW-Madison

2023- Yu-Hsuan (Jade) Wang, TBA, History of Science, Medicine & Technology, UW-Madison

Dissertation Committees

2025- Joel Andrew Matthews "Tactical Imposters: Enlisted Air Controllers During the Vietnam
War," History, UW-Madison

2024- Eun Ji Kim, "Comparative Study of Algorithmic Governance" Sociology, UW-Madison

2024- Vignesh Ramachandran, "Working Class Life in the Wake of Digital Taylorism"
Geography, UW-Madison

2022- Bennett McIntosh, "Infrastructuring Controversy: Knowledge Enclosure/Disclosure and
the Politics of Social Genomics." History of Science, UW-Madison

2022-24 Megan Zahay, "The Authenticity Economy: Negotiating Community Values and Content
Monetization on YouTube." Communications Arts - Rhetoric, Politics, and Culture, UW-
Madison

2021-23 Donald Alan Seablom, "How to Hide an Air War: U.S. Air Force Operations in Laos,
1964-1973," History, UW-Madison

Undergraduate Theses

2022-23 Isaac Owen, "Forging Alliances in Post-Civil War Kentucky: How Clubs and
Conversations Led a Kentucky Business Class Towards a Commercial Future in the
Gilded Era," History, UW-Madison

2016-17 Paul Banks "People Machines: The Simulmatics Corporation's Efforts to Model Human Behavior, 1960 -1969," [Harvard, History of Science]

Summer Research Opportunity Program, UW-Madison

2022 Celeste Romero, New Mexico State University

Museum Exhibitions

2016 "Radio Contact: Tuning into Politics, Technology, & Culture," Co-Curator, Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments, Harvard University, Cambridge MA.
Covered in *The Boston Globe*, *Boston Magazine* and *Harvard Magazine*.

Languages

English (First language); French (Read/Speak)

Other Work and Volunteer Experience

2023- Board of Directors, and Treasurer, Creative Learning Preschool, Madison, WI.
2021-22 Goodman Community Center, Kitchen Assistant. Madison, WI.
2018-19 High School Equivalence Examination Tutor (all subjects), Northern State Prison, Petey Greene Program. Newark, NJ.
2011-13 Executive Assistant / Assistant Literary Agent, The Wylie Agency, New York, NY